

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 00305 232256Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01 SIL-01 LAB-04
ACDA-12 OC-06 CCO-00 /096 W
-----111878 232303Z /61

O R 232236Z JAN 78 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5453

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SANJOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), PINT

SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 4 NICARAGUA - TODMAN VISIT

REF: MANAGUA 0285 (NOTAL)

1. APPROXIMATELY 100 FIRMS CLOSED DOWN EARLIER TODAY (JAN 23) EITHER AS A RESULT OF STRIKES OR OUT OF FEAR OF RETAILIATION -- SOME BUSINESSMEN REPORTED HAVING RECEIVED THREATS EITHER TO "CLOSE OR BURN." MOST OF THE CLOSED FIRMS ARE LOCATED ON NORTH HIGHWAY WHICH WAS THE SCENE OF THE JANUARY 12 FIREBOMBINGS. AS OF 1530 HOURS (LOCAL, BANKS REMAINED OPEN BUT EMBOFFS OBSERVED MANY STORES IN MANAGUA'S MAIN COMMERCIAL CENTER IN THE PROCESS OF CLOSING. THERE IS A RUN ON LOCAL GAS STATIONS IN PROGRESS FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT THESE STATIONS WOULD CLOSE SHORTLY. WE HAVE HAD UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SOME STORES IN LEON (NICARAGUA'S SECOND CITY) CLOSED TODAY AND THAT COTTON PICKERS IN CHINANDEGA IN THE NORTHWEST ARE ON STRIKE.
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 00305 232256Z

2. ACCORDING TO MANAGER OF ONE US-OWNED FIRM NOW ON STRIKE, THE COMMUNIST-LED GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR CGT-1 CALLED FOR THE STRIKE OF NORTH HIGHWAY FIRMS WITH THE ALLEGED BACKING OF UDEL (A LOOSE FEFERATION OF ANTI-SOMOZA POLITICIANS). SOURCE EXPECTS STRIKES TO SPREAD FURTHER TOMORROW, TUESDAY. AN AMCIT SOURCE SAID THAT STRIKETS ARE RAISING SLOGAN OF "INSISTANCE ON JUSTICE."

(COMMENT: THERE IS WIDESPREAD CRITICISM HERE OF THE CONDUCT OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ULTIMATE CULPRITS IN THE P.J. CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION.)

3. SOME BUSINESS CONTACTS HAVE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT DEMONSTRATIONS MAY TAKE PLACE DURING ASST. SEC. TODMAN'S VISIT, WHICH COULD GET OUT OF HAND AND LEAD TO MORE PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WORSE. SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS

WOULD HAVE ANTI-SOMOZA, NOT ANTI-US, COLORATIONS BUT MOBS ARE UNPREDICTABLE.

R. CONTINUING TO MONITOR SCENE CLOSELY AND MAY SEND EMBOFF TO TEGUCIGALPA TOMORROW TO PRESENT SITUATION TO TODMAN.
SOLAUN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, PINT, NU, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
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